IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23 with the following amended paragraph.

In sophisticated versions the plunger shaft has outer and inner concentric plastic tubes. The inner tube may be a thick solid tube, with a narrow bore providing the flow conduit. Or it may be a wide-bored tube housing an inmost flexible tube which is the flow conduit. At the front end of the shaft a rubber sealing ring is trapped between end formations of the inner and outer stiff tubes, and the filter arrangement has a porous disk (e.g. a sinter or mesh) clamped over a divergent flow distributing end surface of the inner tube, at the outlet of the flow conduit. The outer stiff tube runs slidably through a plastics end unit screwed onto the end of the column tube. The end unit has a mechanism which may be switched between a free sliding engagement with the plunger's outer plastics tube (for large axial movements) and a screw-threaded engagement (for fine adjustments). An ~~interned~~ internal screw engagement is also provided between the inner and outer tubes so that after advancing the plunger to the desired position - i.e. contacting the end of the bed of medium - the rubber sealing ring can be squeezed out into sealing contact with the column tube wall by axially compressing it between the end formations of the inner and outer tubes. Internal plunger seals are also provided to prevent leakage from between the internal conduit and the filter element into the interior

of the plunger construction, or to the outside of the shaft. These columns give good results but can be very expensive, and are complicated to use and maintain.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

It is ~~in~~ generally desirable to ~~minimise~~ minimize the volume of the ~~distinction~~ distribution space 35 and not difficult to do so in thermoformable material. The same applies to the lower convergence 13 of the column tube.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 26 with the following amended paragraph.

The surface groove around the outer ~~well~~ wall behind the joint to the disc will provide a useful seating for a discrete deformable seal element, either additionally to the glass-glass seal illustrated or, in ~~a~~ an alternative embodiment, ~~or~~ as the sole external seal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 12 with the following amended paragraph.

It will be noted that the head 21 is clear of the union opening ~~27~~ 37 so that the plunger can be manipulated without interfering with the fluid connection.